

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

May 2, 2006

Upon Recess of BMA

Mayor Guinta called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll. There were fourteen Aldermen present.

Present: Aldermen Roy, Gatsas, Long, Duval, Osborne, Pinard, O'Neil, Lopez, Shea, DeVries, Garrity, Smith, Thibault and Forest

Mayor Guinta addressed item 3 of the agenda:

3. Resolutions:

“Amending the FY2006 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000.00) for FY2006 CIP 711406 Downtown Miscellaneous Repairs Project.”

“Authorizing the Finance Officer to effect a transfer of One Thousand Eight Hundred Dollars (\$1,800) from Contingency to Police – Special Projects.”

On motion of Alderman Garrity, duly seconded by Alderman Shea, it was voted to receive and file the resolution relative to CIP 711406.

On motion of Alderman O'Neil, duly seconded by Alderman Pinard, it was voted that the Resolution be read by title only, and it was so done.

Alderman O'Neil moved that the Resolution ought to pass and be enrolled. Alderman Thibault duly seconded the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Resolutions:

“Authorizing the Finance Officer to effect a transfer of Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000) from Contingency to Fire – Line.”

“Authorizing the Finance Officer to effect a transfer of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) from Contingency to Fire – Mechanical Division.”

“Authorizing the Finance Officer to effect a transfer of Forty Three Thousand Dollars (\$43,000) from Contingency to Police – Uniformed Police.”

“Authorizing the Finance Officer to effect a transfer of Forty Three Thousand Dollars (\$43,000) from Contingency to Uniformed Police.”

Alderman Lopez stated clarification on adopting the second through fifth resolutions.

Deputy City Clerk Johnson stated all of these have been tabled at the Board level yes. They were tabled as part of the Consent Agenda. When the Consent Agenda was discussed all four resolutions were tabled at the Board level. They will have to be referred to Finance Committee at a later date.

Alderman Lopez stated I thought this was an important night that these people needed and now all of a sudden we're taking money out of Contingency that's not important to be tabled at the Board level.

Mayor Guinta stated Alderman Shea about an hour ago asked that they be tabled so we could wait for a report from the Finance Officer to ensure that the dollars were in Contingency, so I think that's where it stands at this point.

Alderman Lopez stated the point that I am making here is we have over \$500,000 in Contingency...there was an issue during the Finance Committee meeting that these were items that they needed and we decided to take them. I understand where Alderman Shea is going but my point is this...when we as the Finance Committee make a recommendation or take an action to do something and the Finance Officer says well we're going to wait I would like to have a little clarification of that...if it's so important to take money out of Contingency to do something then why do we have to wait when the money is there and if you go to the end of May and then June when we pass the budget we might as well just put it in the '07 budget.

Mayor Guinta stated I know that the motion I think asked for about 14 days but as I spoke with the Finance Officer earlier today when the FY06 budget was passed I think it was Alderman Lopez your recommendation to increase the Contingency

line item \$543,000 to ensure that all of the things that we needed to pay for could get paid for could get paid for and the concern I think that's been expressed to the Committee on Finance by the Finance Officer was that let's make sure that all those things can get paid. I absolutely agree with you that these are critical items that need to be paid and I think the Board is asking for 14 days to get a little more clarification as to the remainder of the requests from the City.

Alderman Lopez stated okay I'll go along with the 14 days but in the future if we're going to take an action as a Board it's not up to the Finance people, with all due respect to them, to say we're going to wait because the only reason we're taking money out is because people need the items...do you agree with that?

Mayor Guinta replied I think it was a recommendation. It's up to this Board whether we accept it...we're the policy makers clearly and we get to make those policy decisions based on recommendations.

Alderman Lopez stated my last comment would be is that the reason for that is because if we have Contingency and I understand that at the end of the year '06 we might have a fund balance...if we start spending too much you won't have enough in the fund balance so that's another issue. If that's the real reason then we shouldn't be taking money out of Contingency we should put it in the '07 budget.

Alderman Shea stated the point that I tried to make is that if there is anybody that wants to put a proposal together is welcome to do that. There is no problem with that it's just the idea that that would not impede or stop them from ordering or from asking what it would cost for these particular matters and it's only about a two-week period of time that we would be involved with so I don't really think that there is any contradiction in terms of saying this is the money, we know that the money will be given to them, we voted on it, it's just a matter of the Finance Officer coming back to us in 14 days and saying fine we've got a better handle on things now and so forth.

Mayor Guinta stated I would agree. I think it's a prudent approach. I think there is every intention of this Board, myself included particularly with the bulletproof vests to get those paid for...that was a request originally in the FY07 budget and we're trying to move it up into the FY06 so we can get it out to the police officers quicker than originally anticipated. But, I think the Board collectively has that intention we're just waiting to ensure from a financial standpoint that some other possibly encumbered or unencumbered payments don't need to be made out of that account.

Deputy City Clerk Johnson stated the Clerk would also note that those items we would place as a tabled item before the Committee on Finance agenda at the next Board meeting so that it will be able to be referred into Finance and acted upon that evening.

Mayor Guinta addressed item 4 of the agenda:

4. CIP Budget Authorization:

711406 Downtown Miscellaneous Repairs – Revision #1

On motion of Alderman Garrity, duly seconded by Alderman Smith, it was voted to receive and file the CIP budget authorization.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, on motion of Alderman Thibault, duly seconded by Alderman DeVries, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

Clerk of Committee